

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed as new and desired to be secured by Letters Patent is as follows:

5 **Listing of Claims:**

 Claims 1-9 (canceled)

 Claim 10 (currently amended): A football kicking training aid consisting in combination of:

 a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively
10 enlarged between the two ends, said football having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon, and

 a flexible thimble having a lateral area, said thimble having a pad
15 attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area of said thimble, said thimble allowing a user to insert a finger into said thimble wherein a fingerpad of said finger is positioned adjacent to said pad, said pad having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably
20 engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch.

 Claim 11 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating elements upon a player kicking said football.

 Claim 12 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 10
25 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

 Claim 13 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

30 Claim 14 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 10 wherein said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A football kicking training aid consisting in combination of:

5 a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, said football having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon, and

10 a flexible glove having a plurality of fingers, including a glove index finger, said glove index finger having a lateral area on the palm side of said glove; said lateral area having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area of said glove index finger, said glove index finger allowing a user to insert an index finger into said glove index finger wherein a fingerpad of said index finger is positioned adjacent to said pad, said pad having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on
15 said at least one patch, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements upon a player kicking said football.

20 Claim 17 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said mating elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The device as claimed in claim 15 wherein said mating elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements
25 of a loop and hook fastener product.

Claim 19 (new): A method of training of players in football kicking comprising the steps of:

30 positioning a flexible thimble on a player's index finger, said thimble having a lateral area and having a pad attached thereon, said pad covering said lateral area, said pad having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon,

positioning said pad adjacent a fingerpad of said player's said index finger,

placing on a horizontal playing surface a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, and
5 having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said pad, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,

10 positioning said football upright, with one upper tapered end having at least one patch and one lower end resting on a horizontal playing surface,

supporting said football by placing only said pad on said at least one patch on said upper tapered end, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch,

15 continuing said supporting of said football until another player has kicked said football.

Claim 20 (new): The device as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements upon a player kicking said football.

20 Claim 21 (new): The device as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

Claim 22 (new): The device as claimed in claim 19 wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop
25 and hook fastener product.

Claim 23 (new): The device as claimed in claim 19 wherein said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.

Claim 24 (new): A method of training of players in football kicking comprising the steps of:

30 positioning a flexible glove on a player's hand, and positioning a glove index finger on said glove on said player's index finger, said glove having a

palm side, a back side and a plurality of fingers, including said glove index finger, said glove index finger having a lateral area on said palm side of said glove, and having a pad attached to said lateral area, said pad covering said lateral area of said glove index finger, said glove index finger allowing said pad
5 to be positioned adjacent a fingerpad of said index finger, said pad having a plurality of mating fastener elements thereon;

placing on the ground a football having two tapered ends and a central section progressively enlarged between the two ends, and having at least one patch attached thereon, said at least one patch positioned on either one of said
10 tapered ends of said football, said at least one patch having a plurality of male or female mating fastener elements thereon complementary to said fastener elements on said pad, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch;

positioning said football upright, with one upper tapered end having at
15 least one patch and one lower end resting on said playing surface;

supporting said football by placing only said pad on said at least one patch on said upper tapered end, said mating fastener elements on said pad releasably engaging said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch;

continuing said supporting of said football until another player has
20 kicked said football.

Claim 25 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating fastener elements disengage from said complementary mating fastener elements upon a player kicking said football.

Claim 26 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating
25 fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise loop elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

Claim 27 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said mating fastener elements on said at least one patch comprise hook elements of a loop and hook fastener product.

30 Claim 28 (new): The device as claimed in claim **24** wherein said thimble is made of natural or synthetic rubber.